Atty. Dkt. No. 320727.50401 Customer No. 27160

PATENT

OCT 03 2003

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Kubota et al.

Application No.: 09/678,953

Filed: October 3, 2000

For: METHODS OF ISOLATING BIPOTENT

HEPATIC PROGENITOR CELLS

Group Art Unit: 1632

Examiner: Thaian N. Ton

Attorney Docket No. 320727.50401

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants hereby petition for a two-month extension of time up to and including September 30, 2003 to respond to the Office Action mailed April 30, 2003.

Please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-1710 in the amount of \$205.00 covering the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(a)(1). The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment in connection with this submission to our Deposit Account. In the event that a further petition for an extension of time is required to be submitted at this time, Applicants hereby petition for an extension of time for as many months as are required to ensure that the above-identified application does not become abandoned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: September 30, 2003